

Share your plan for arthritis prevention, treatment and care in Manitoba

Arthritis is *one* word that describes *more than 100 disease types* and affects *one out of five* Manitoba residents. To effectively treat and manage the most disabling and life-threatening types – osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis – the next elected Manitoba government must improve the level of arthritis prevention, treatment and care.

Question 1

Arthritis affects more than 180,000 Manitoba residents age 15 years and above, yet no comprehensive model of arthritis care is available. This is particularly pronounced outside of the greater Winnipeg metro region. Where you live can be more important in determining treatment than how sick or disabled you are.

What will your government do to bring a standardized model of arthritis care for all Manitoba residents?

Question 2

Aboriginal Canadians have some of the highest rates of serious or life-threatening arthritis in the world, and are at greater risk for becoming disabled by arthritis. Significant gaps in Aboriginal arthritis care currently exist in Manitoba.

What will your government do to improve the healthcare and lives of Aboriginals living with arthritis in Manitoba?

Question 3

Arthritis Consumer Experts annually ranks publicly funded drug formularies based on the number of medically necessary arthritis medications (e.g. biologic response modifiers and targeted small molecule). After ranking #5 in Canada in 2014, Manitoba has dropped to #8 in Canada because it takes longer for Manitoba to approve certain arthritis medications.

What will your government do to improve the province's ranking and ensure that Manitobans living with arthritis, with the help of the doctors who treat them, are able to choose the medication most appropriate for their specific disease and risk factors?

Question 4

Arthritis is the leading cause of disability and work disability in Manitoba. About a quarter of the population with arthritis between 20 and 54 years of age in Manitoba were not in the labour force because of their arthritis, costing Manitoba's economy more than \$600 million in productivity losses.

How will your government establish and enact better prevention programs and healthcare guidelines to help reduce the direct and indirect costs of arthritis on the Manitoba economy?